



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Reminiscences of the Civil War. By GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON of the Confederate Army. With portraits. Pp. xiii, 474. Price \$3.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1903.

Written a few months before his death by the last of Lee's great generals, these reminiscences form one of the most valuable contributions to the literature of the Civil War that has yet appeared. The book is confessedly written to help to a better understanding between the people of the two sections. The author believes that neither side can claim to have been "wholly and eternally right," and that it is "wholly and eternally wrong" to teach one-sided and prejudiced history to the youths of either section, since bravery, self-sacrifice, and patriotism were not confined to either side. General Gordon was a gentleman and made war like a gentleman, and it is his pleasure to relate the incidents of the war of the "brave against the brave," forgetting the unseemly things that occurred during the strife and remembering only the splendid acts of heroic men struggling for their country. He believed that the Civil War was a great school for development of character, and that the men who passed through that school were permanently benefited by their experiences; that the true soldier was not demoralized, but made a better man by privations, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty; and that the war aroused in the people of the sections a respect for each other that had not before existed. The manhood and the magnanimity of the American soldier are illustrated by incidents related on every page. No one knew the common soldier better than Gordon; no commander except Lee was more loved by his men. His promotion came swiftly, but always unsought; he enlisted at the age of twenty-eight as captain of the "Raccoon Roughs" from North Alabama, and was paroled at Appomattox as lieutenant-general. The reminiscences begin with the outbreak of the war and the uprising of the Southern people. The "latent unionism" of North Alabama and North Georgia, of which we have heard so much, is shown by Gordon's account not to have existed. His "Raccoon Roughs" were fair types of those who were supposed to be devoted to the Union. The short account given of political and social conditions at the time of secession is valuable because it gives the popular belief, not that of the lawyer or the later historian. Gordon was thoroughly at home on a battle-field and understood the psychology of armies, hence the descriptions of battles are clear to the lay reader without the aid of maps, of which fortunately there are none. Like nearly all soldiers, Gordon believed in a soldier's premonitions of approaching death. Great importance is ascribed to the influence of religion in holding the Southern soldiers to duty after most discouraging reverses, the revivals in the army, especially in 1863 and 1864, having affected thousands of the men. As the war wore on, personal hatred between the combatants declined and a spirit of good fellowship between the contending armies was shown on occasions when actual hostilities were not in progress. It is of the brave and generous aspects of war that Gordon likes to write. From his usual rule he departs only to criticise Generals Hunter and Sheridan for their acts of vandalism in laying waste the Valley of Virginia, contrasting their conduct unfavorably with that of the Confederates under Lee, when invading the

North. In his most important military operations Gordon was handicapped by an incapable superior officer. Three great opportunities came to him and the same inefficient superior in each case prevented success: (1) On the first day at Gettysburg, Gordon was driving a broken enemy before him, yet was ordered by Early to halt, and the Federals then secured the heights. Gordon, however, is of the opinion that Lee would have won on both the second and third days had Longstreet obeyed orders. (2) At the Battle of the Wilderness on May 6, 1864, Early refused to accept Gordon's statement as to the disposition of the enemy in his front, restraining him from making a flank attack until General Lee interfered. (3) At Cedar Creek Gordon was again pursuing a fugitive army before him, when Early stopped the pursuit, thus enabling Sheridan to make his famous ride and completely rout Early, who then laid the blame on his soldiers, accusing them of straggling and looting in the Federal camp. This accusation is flatly denied by Gordon. Few other controversial questions are touched upon. He thinks that Bragg was not fitted to exercise command. In regard to the Davis-Johnston question, he believes that the similarity in character between the two men prevented them from working well together, Johnston not fully meeting his duty to the President, and the latter not sufficiently trusting Johnston. The greater part of the book is devoted, not to the rising, but to the falling fortunes of the Confederacy, the slow battering, and strangling and starving of the South. The "magnanimity of Appomattox" would have extended through reconstruction, Gordon believes, had the soldiers and not the politicians been in control of public policy. The "ineffable littleness" of President Johnston and the vindictiveness of Johnson, Stanton, and Halleck are contrasted with the conduct of the great soldiers on the Federal side.

WALTER L. FLEMING.

West Virginia University.

Parliamentary England. By EDWARD JENKS, M. A. Pp. xix, 441. Price \$1.35. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. The Story of the Nations Series, 1903.

"Parliamentary England" deals with the century and a half which elapses between the time of Cromwell and the Reform Bill of 1832. The author chooses for his subject the evolution of the Cabinet System. "It is the business of this book," he says, "to explain how that system of government which came into force in England with the Restoration of Charles II. in 1660 was changed, in the course of one hundred and seventy years, into the system which was in force at the passing of the Reform Bill, and which, with some modifications, is in force at the present day. In the first place, therefore, it is necessary to explain how England was governed in the years which follow the return of the Stuarts." With this brief introduction, he plunges into a discussion of the system maintained under the Restoration. But inasmuch as the volume is supposedly written for a popular circulation, and not primarily for students of constitutional history, this brief introduction to the subject seems inadequate. The average reader, with little or no knowledge of constitutional history, after reading the